



21. (Previously presented). A screenplate having slots of selected width for screening devices comprising a plurality of elongate strips having a width and having side edges, a plurality of elongate spacers having a thickness equal to the width of slots in the screenplate, the strips and spacers arranged alternately in a stack to define intercontacting surfaces, the spacers having a width equal to the width of strips and a length less than four times the width of spacers, and the spacers being separated from each other at intervals two to ten times the length of spacer, the strips and spacers being metallurgically bonded at intercontacting surfaces, and the screenplate having an open area of up to 27%.

#### REMARKS

The foregoing amendment to the specification and claims is to place the application in condition for appeal.

Applicants restates their position that "metallurgical bonding" is a term well known in the art such those skilled in metal working will understand how to make applicants' invention on the basis of such term.

The examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to the intervals and open area recited in the claims. There is no evidence for the

examiner's position other than a hindsight view of the invention. The references are totally silent as to disclosure of intervals and open area.

Stamford, Connecticut  
November 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached document was sent via the United States Postal Service this 22nd day of November 2004 in a first class postage prepaid envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Mail Stop Amendment, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

22 November 2004  
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